I.PG cylinders are procured by the oil industry directly from the cylinder manufacturers only and after certification by the Bureau of Indian Standards. LPG is supplied to the customers in these cylinders owned by oi] companies. All cylinders are inspected at the bottling plants before and after each filling. The cylinders in use by the oil industry are subjected to statutory testing every five years. All the defective|spurious cylinders detected at ma-nufacturers' end or at bottling plants are deshaped and sold as scrap to prevent the possibility of their recirculation in tha market.

**Shifting of IOC's sales depot**

3421. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROI.EUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for retaining the sales depot of the refined oil products of Assam at Siliguri in West Bengal, even after the extension of the broad-gauge railway line upto Guwahati;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government or shifting the Oil Corporation's Sales Depot from Siliguri to some broad-gauge connected staiton in-between Guwahati and Bongaigaon; and

(c) if *so* by when it is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) While the extension of the broad-gauge railway line upto Guwahati has facilitated transportation of petroleum products from the Guwahati Refinery, the POL depot at Siliguri is necessary because it not only serves as a distribution centre but also re ceives products from Guwahati and Bongaigaon Refineries The depot also receiv es products for transportation into Assam;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

928 RS.—7.

**Gas connections to towns in M.P to save fire-wood**

3422. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new cooking gas connections are being given in 1987 to Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(b) whether Government would consider giving a large number of cooking gas connections for towns in the close proximity of forests in Madhya Pradesh to save the adjoining forests from denudation on account of removal of firewood; and

(c) whether Government would consider giving more cooking gas connections to Madhya Pradesh in the Year 1988 in comparison to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAs (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Approximately 1.20 lakh new LPG connections are proposed to be issued jn Madhya Pradesh during 1987-88 by the oil marketing companies,

(b) and (c) LPG connections will continue to be released in Madhya Pradesh also under the annual customer enrolment programme of the oil industry keeping in view augmentation in the availability of LPG, bottling capacity and related infrastructure. The introduction of LPG facilities at any location through establishment of a distributorship as well as through setting up new ones at existing locations is determined by the demand potential and the feasibility of economically viable operations of such distributorships.

**खाना पकाने की गैस के सिलेण्डरों की खरीद से संबंधित नीति**

3423. श्री घनश्याम सिंह : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1985-86 और 1986-87 के वर्षों के दौरान सिलेंडर निर्माताओं से खाना पकाने की गैस के सिलेंडरों की खरीद के संबंध में तेल कम्पनियों की नीति क्या रही है ;